

Summary of Outcomes From October 2011 Chesapeake Bay Toxic Contaminants Workshop and Options for STAC Involvement

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December 14, 2011

Chesapeake Bay Watershed Toxic Contaminants

“EPA, DOI and NOAA will work with state and local governments and stakeholders to expand understanding of the extent and seriousness of the toxic contaminant problem in the Bay and its watershed and to develop contaminant reduction goals by 2013.” (EO Strategy pgs. 37-38)

- Report Nov. 2012**
 - Goals for reducing 2013**
 - Strategies for reducing 2015**
 - Refined strategies in 2017**
- Toxic Reduction Strategy (*Toxics 2000*)**

Need to Address Toxic Contaminants

Impairments to estuary waters

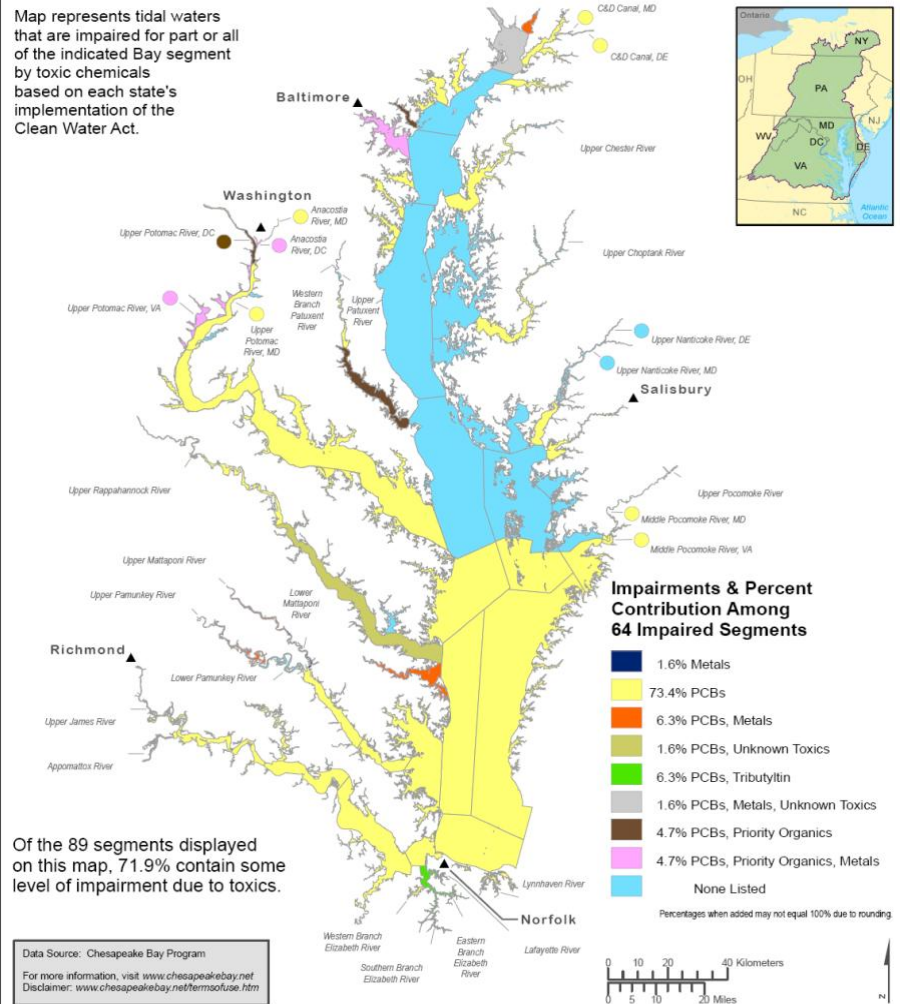
71.9% of tidal segments listed as partially or fully impaired due to toxic contaminants

Chemical Contaminants (2009)

Impairments Illustrated Using the Chesapeake Bay Segmentation Scheme



Map represents tidal waters that are impaired for part or all of the indicated Bay segment by toxic chemicals based on each state's implementation of the Clean Water Act.



Need to Address Toxic Contaminants

Watershed conditions

- Intersex conditions in fish
- Poor stream health conditions

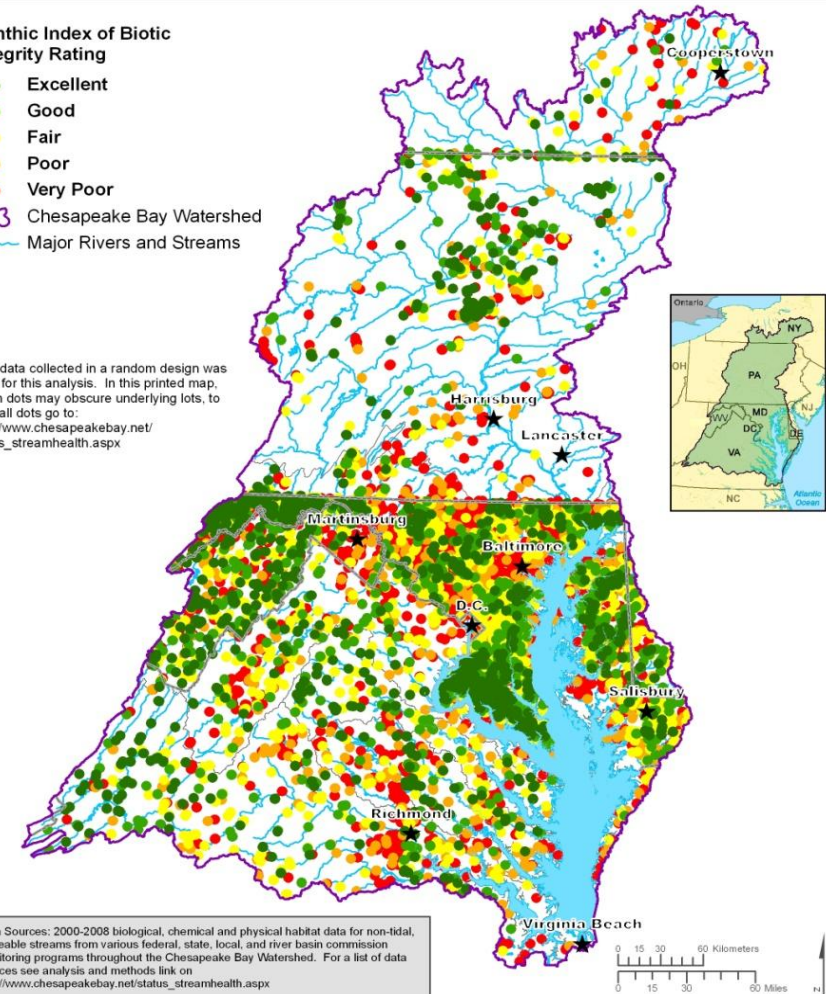
Average 2000-2008 Stream Health in Random Locations in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed



Benthic Index of Biotic Integrity Rating

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- Very Poor
- 📐 Chesapeake Bay Watershed
- 🌊 Major Rivers and Streams

Only data collected in a random design was used for this analysis. In this printed map, green dots may obscure underlying lots, to view all dots go to: http://www.chesapeakebay.net/status_streamhealth.aspx



Data Sources: 2000-2008 biological, chemical and physical habitat data for non-tidal, wadeable streams from various federal, state, local, and river basin commission monitoring programs throughout the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. For a list of data sources see analysis and methods link on http://www.chesapeakebay.net/status_streamhealth.aspx

Created by FMI, 03/07/2011

UTM Zone 18N, NAD 83

Chesapeake Bay Toxic Contaminants Workshop - Purpose

October 2011 - To begin the process of federal agencies working with state and local governments and other stakeholders to expand our understanding of the extent and seriousness of the toxic contaminant problem in the Bay and its watershed leading to a November 2012 report

Chesapeake Bay Toxic Contaminants Workshop – Attendance

- Jurisdictions – DC, De, Md, Pa, Va, WV (8 total attendees)
- Federal agencies – EPA, USGS, FWS, NOAA, USDA (22 total attendees)
- Academia – Smithsonian, UMd (2 total attendees)
- STAC – Coordinator (1 attendee)

Chesapeake Bay Toxic Contaminants Workshop - Objectives

- *Obj 1:* Discuss approaches to define extent and seriousness of the impact of toxic contaminants in the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed.
- *Obj 2:* Discuss major elements for a summary report on toxic contaminants and potential contributions to the report by federal, state, and other CBP partners.

Chesapeake Bay Toxic Contaminants Workshop - Outcomes

Obj 1: approaches to define extent and seriousness of the impact of toxic contaminants

- Using 2010/2012 State integrated assessment reports (biannual 303d/305b reports) important but they only address contaminants with criteria and standards
- Report will require additional information for contaminants without criteria/standards and contaminants of emerging concern and their impact on aquatic systems

Chesapeake Bay Toxic Contaminants Workshop - Outcomes

Obj 2: major elements for the report and potential contributions by federal, state, and other CBP partners

- Extent and seriousness of toxic contaminants with standards in the Bay and its watershed
- Occurrence of other contaminants of emerging concern and their impacts
- Research needs
- Possible recommendations for development of criteria and state standards
- Next steps/recommendations for developing goals and strategies to reduce toxic contaminants
- Progress since the CBP 2000 Toxic reduction strategy

Chesapeake Bay Toxic Contaminants Workshop – Next Steps

- STAR has agreed to establish an Action Team following a workshop recommendation
- Need to reaffirm members for the Action Team; set first meeting
- States invited but must review drafts at a minimum
- Project plan in development
- 90-day detailee – Melanie Culp, EPA
- Strong draft needed by Spring 2012

Options for STAC Involvement in November 2012 Contaminants Report

- Peer Input
 - Action Team member(s)
 - Identify/summarize relevant articles
 - Review early report drafts
- Peer Review of Final Draft
 - Federal agency policies will encourage independent peer review
 - STAC could lead if carefully timed and conducted before November 2012 due date

Chesapeake Bay Toxic Contaminants

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